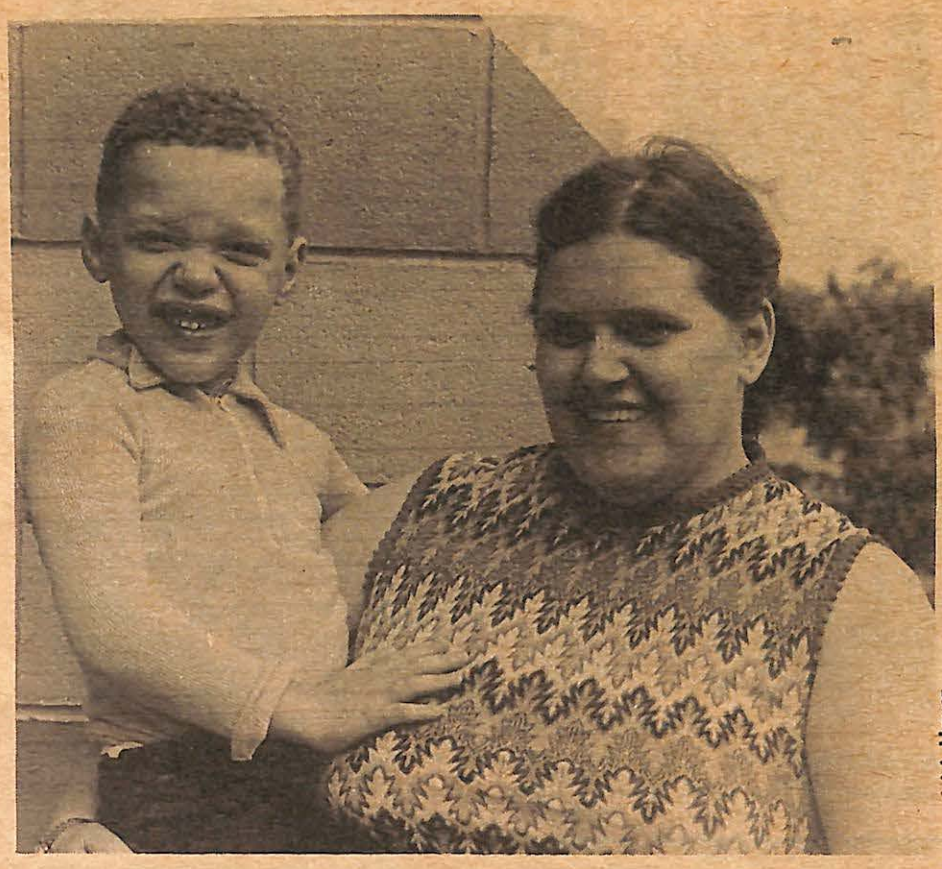
Ald. Natalino Exposed as Slumlord



Nick Heyer

Dorothy Crosby and her son Poindexter at their new apartment.

by Edw. Breuler
Modern Times Staff

Several weeks ago, Alderman Michael Natalino (D-14) was hit by a law suit brought by two residents of an apartment at 142 Putnam Street which Natalino owns. The suit reads in part: "As a result of eating quantities of lead from the building, the youths received severe, painful and permanent injuries including mental impairment and retardation."

The plaintiffs in the case are Dorothy Crosby representing her son Poindexter, and Dorothea Brown representing her son Marvin. In a **Modern Times** exclusive interview, Dorothy Crosby gave this account of the incidents.

Dorothy's Account

Two years ago, my son was taken to St. Raphael Hospital and was diagnosed as having lead poisoning. He went through several tests and had to be hospitalized for over a week. When Poindexter or Butch, as he is called at home, came home, he has been constantly sick and has trouble eating and sleeping. He now goes every week to the Hill Health center for blood tests. His condition is a direct result of the lead paint in the Putnam Street house. He still has three chips of paint in his chest.

I called Mike [Natalino] and he told me he would get the paint but that I would have to paint it myself, and if chips fall, clean them up with a vacuum cleaner.

In the last year, I have called Mike every other week or so. The water had been shut off for over a week or so. Natalino did not pay the water bill. This is about the fifth time that this has happened.

More Problems

The furnace backs up and the Fire Department requested that a new boiler be put in and it has never been done. The floors and ceilings are falling in. The water pipes are bursting in every apartment and when they are repaired, they are repaired with TAPE, and I pay $150 rent for that place.

see LEAD page 7

MODERN TIMES

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Vol. V, No. 7 — **New Haven** — September 15-30

CHCP Bosses Are No Different From Others

Editors Note:
After this article went to press, Local 466 members voted to accept a 25 month contract. The new pact includes a 12 per cent wage increase in the first year and a bonus for personnel on 24 hour call. The contract, which ended a 17 day strike by the 73 member Union, is regarded as a good package.

by Andrew Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Workers strike only as a last resort. For it's never easy, no matter how much money a working person has managed to save,to be without income. And yet, still another group of New Haven working people have been forced to strike in their struggles with an unresponsive management. Only with great reluctance did Local 466 of the Office and Professional Employees International Union(OPEIU) walk out of their offices and labs to set up a picket line in front of the Community Health Care Plan(CHCP) at Long Wharf.

The strike action by the 73 member union was precipitated by the refusal for an eight month period of CHCP Executive Director, Dr. I.S. Falk, to discuss worker problems at the Long Wharf facility with Union President Dominic Furco. Since then Falk and his assistant have used classical anti-union methods when dealing with the OPEIU members. The duo, also, has ignored the low staff moral;caused primarily by their attitudes and actions.

Real Issues

The Union has adopted a just bargaining position. They are asking for a modest 9½% wage increase. When one considers that the average wage of the Local 466ers is $120 a week, such a percentage is far from exorbitant. This is especially true when, at present,non-medical and non-nursing supervisory staff enjoy an average weekly income of $320 per week.

The granting of a 9½% increase to the strikers would cost CHCP only an additional $768 a week. Hardly a sum to drive an organization with the number of enrollees CHCP has into bankruptcy.

There are, also, non-wage issues on which CHCP management is footdrag-

see CHARTER page 8

Nick Heyer

Striking workers at the Community Health Care Plan Center held their positions firmly for 17 days and finally won an acceptable contract.

THE COVER UP : ACT II

Why did Ford pardon Nixon? Why pardon someone before he's even convicted of a crime? There's one reason that makes sense: to prevent the trial. Ford's presidential ambitions for 1976 will not be helped by the new truths and old reminders of Republican Party corruption which will come out in Nixon's trial. America is now going into a severe recession. Perhaps Ford and Rockefeller are afraid that the combination of severe economic hardship felt by the average American, and the example of the profiteering of Nixon and the corporations, will anger Americans enough to look outside the two parties for solutions to their problems.

Another reason to cover up, is that Nixon may have made it clear that if he isn't pardoned, he'll use the witness stand to expose further Republican corruption.

The cover up of Nixon's trial is however, only the latest act in the constant cover up of corporate plundering and political corruption that sends you to jail for stealing a shirt and sends you to the White House for robbing the American people of millions.

inside

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Angry Consumers Broaden Fight Against UI

by John Michaels
Modern Times Staff

The past several days have been busy ones for the Fair Haven Short-Circuited Consumers(FHSCC) as they escalated their drive against the United Illuminating(UI) Company's repulsively high electric rates.

Of all the actions taken, the most visible was a mass picket of UI's downtown headquarters. On August 29,some 40 irate consumers marched for an hour, under a hot sun, in a public display of their anger and frustration. The response from the downtown lunch time crowd, streaming along Temple and George Streets, was overwhelmingly positive. Over 500 pieces of literature explaining actions consumers can take and calling for municipalizing UI, were distributed and avidly read.

Political Candidates Visited

In a less visible activity, a group of FHSCC held an in-depth conversation with State Senator Anthony Ciarlone. The consumers expressed their growing feeling that the increased cost of electricity, coupled with a general overall increase in the cost of living, is squeezing them even tighter in a financial vice. They outlined how the cost of electricity had increased faster than the cost of other services.

And yet, asked the FHSCC, where are they to turn to for help. Certainly not to the Public Utilities Commission(PUC). The PUC, they pointed out, responds only to the utilities; which they regulate. Thus, the consumer group is appealing for help to those they have elected to public office.

The group then illustrated the advantages of a city owned electric utility. The income generated by a municipally owned electric utility would: lower property taxes, improve city services, and allow the city to institute new services. Ciarlone was impressed by the fact that over 2,000 cities and towns now run their electric companies.. He was also aware that nearby Wallingford, which has a municipally owned electric company, just lowered its property tax, using income from its utility.

After the meeting there was a general feeling, among the FHSCC, that little in the way of positive action could be expected from the State Legislature.The FHSCC did manage to get Ciarlone to issue a request that the PUC hearings be moved to New Haven and take place at night, when working people could attend.

PUC Hearings

In spite of the fact that the PUC began its hearings on the proposed UI rate hike in Bridgeport, a delegation of FHSCC attended. During the first day of testimony, according to those present, there was wide spread opposition to granting UI its proposed rate increase. Various consumer groups showed samples of the already high electric bills their people were paying.

Those FHSCC who attended the hearings reported that political pressure is building to get some type of relief from the ever soaring electric bills. However, they indicated that, as presently constituted, help would not come from the PUC. Therefore, the FHSCC realize they must look elsewhere for long term relief from the high cost of electric service.

Further Action Planned

The FHSCC now know that only by expanding their organization can they apply the type of people pressure necessary to have the political powers listen to them. To this end, they are planning several activities during the next few weeks.

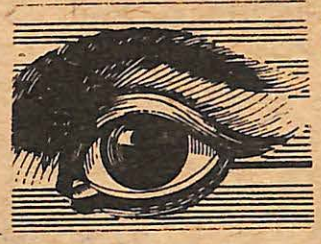
The visits to political candidates will continue and be expanded to include local aldermen. Members of the group will also testify at the PUC hearings scheduled to take place in New Haven.

The FHSCC are also in the process of speaking to other organizations; hoping to get them to join the consumer movement. In addition, a mass meeting is to be held on September 24, at 7:30 pm at the Fair Haven Middle School.

All of these activities require people power Therefore, all interested people are urged to contact: The Fair Haven Short-Circuited Consumers;P.O.Box 99, Fair Haven Station; New Haven,Ct. 06513

Rick Wolff

Angry consumers finally took their complaints to the streets Thursday, August 29, when they picketed UI's downtown headquarters.



eye on the board

Aldermen Could Stop UI

by Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

The Board of Aldermen can become a positive force in the drive by a group of New Haveners--The Fair Haven Short Circuited Consumers--to reverse the revolting trend toward even higher electric bills. They can, if they desire, initiate actions which would lead to a city takeover of United Illuminating (UI). The real question to be asked, is not *do* the aldermen have the power to municipalize the local electric company, they clearly do; but whether or not they *will*.

It is perplexing why none of the aldermen, except those running for "higher office," have as yet spoken out on an issue of such vital importance. Such a "low profile" approach during a period of acute financial crisis for their constituents, is intolerable. And yet, there they sit, failing to voice even the slightest criticism of UI's high-handed fiscal behavior.

The Time Is Now

Now is the time for the aldermen to end their self-imposed silence. They can begin by speaking in favor of proposals to end the UI's noxious Fuel Cost Adjustment--it currently amounts to 50 percent of an average bill. They can begin to apply pressure on UI by setting up a special committee to investigate the legal and financial steps necessary for municipalization.

In short, the aldermen can begin to respond to and demonstrate leadership on this pressing issue at the local level; they shouldn't allow all the action to take place in Hartford.

What Can Be Done

In the state of Connecticut a city or town can, according to state law, take over a utility. This is far from a new or radical concept; for the law has been "on the books" since 1903. City takeover isn't a simple process, but it can be done.

The wheels for city ownership must be set in motion by the Board of Aldermen. The first step is to obtain a 2/3 vote favoring municipalization by the board. This means that, at present, 20 of New Haven's 30 aldermen must vote for city takeover.

Thus, since they have such a key role in the municipalization process, the aldermen must begin at once to study the possibility of public ownership.

Track Record

If the aldermen study the facts with an open mind, if they are responsive to the residents of the Elm City who elected them, then, based upon the experience of the 2,000 existing municipally owned electric utilities, they would have to vote for city ownership. Cities, large and small, have benefited from public ownership.

Let us consider just the revenue aspect of public ownership. The income from a city-owned electric utility could be used to reduce New Haven's property tax. In fact, this very thing happened in our neighboring town of Wallingford but they must buy their power from private sources. The benefit to the taxpayers of New Haven would be even greater since the city has its own generating facilities.

There is another way the city could benefit from running its own electric system. It would have added income to pay for vitally needed public services. For example, we could have improved streets, parks, schools, lights, and recreational facilities.

Aldermen Must Act

In order for all these positive things to happen the Board of Aldermen must act. They must show that they can function as an independent body. There is no need for them to wait for the "go" signal from city hall. Each alderman was elected to act on his/her own, not as a puppet of city hall or any other special interest group.

It is hard to understand why at least one alderman out of the 30 has not come forward to champion such an obviously beneficial course of action as municipalization. They should remember, the weapon of the vote is in New Haveners' hands. And come November 1975 we can, if the present aldermen are unresponsive, replace them with people who will respond.

Gambardella's Reopens

Nick Heyer

Gambardella Brothers Fruit and Vegetable Market reopened on State St. this past August. They have been serving the State St. area for just about 50 years. Alphonse and Joseph Gambardella(above)said they reopened on State St. because they knew so many people in this area. Redevelopment had certainly changed the area but Alphomse felt that the area would soon be revived. Alphonse also was very pleased that so many of their old friends were returning. Gambardella's is one of the few neighborhood stores left in downtown New Haven. Until last January, Gambardella's had been part of the Mohawk Market. When the Mohawk was forced to move, Gambardella closed for six months. Many of the old customers are very glad that they have decided to return. The many people who still live in the center of the city want very much to maintain their neighborhood.

Union Vote Slated for Amity Cafes

by Modern Times Staff

School Cafeteria employees in the Amity Regional System are halfway along the route to unionization with Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, AFL-CIO. A committee representing the women from the Orange, Bethany and Woodbridge schools and union staff met with Board of Education representatives and the State Labor Board agent on August 23 for the purpose of setting an election date.

"We are confident that an overwhelming majority of the cafeteria workers will vote for union representation," states John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of the union. "Over 90 percent of the workers have now signed union cards."

The group of 35 women will be joining the cafeteria workers of New Haven, East Haven, Milford, Guilford and Stratford in their affiliation with Local 217.

The secret ballot election will be held between 2:00-4:00 pm on September 25 in the East Cafeteria at Amity High School.

YNHH: No Housekeeping Vote

by Modern Times Staff

It took almost 5 months, but on August 23rd, the State Labor Board finally came through. They ordered an election on September 20th or 23rd for the Yale-New Haven Hospital Housekeeping workers to decide on having a union. If they win union representation, the 160 Housekeeping workers will join the 150 Dietary workers at Yale-New Haven who are already in Local 1199, the National Hospital Union.

It all began last March, when a majority of Housekeeping workers signed cards asking to be represented by District 1199, National Hospital Union. On April 1, the Union asked the State Labor Board to hold an election, so the workers could decide the issue by secret ballot vote. But the Hospital would not agree to an election.

On june 4, seven Housekeeping workers went to the Labor Board office in Wethersfield to explain why they thought they should have the chance to vote. But the Hospital still refused to go along. Their lawyers maintained that any election should include all service workers in the Hospital, and not just one department. The next move was up to the State Labor Board.

Labor Board Speaks

Now, months later, the Labor Board has ordered an election for the Housekeeping workers. But the struggle to have the election take place isn't over. Even now, the Hospital lawyers are trying to say that the State Labor Board doesn't have the right to conduct the election. They base their claim on a new Federal law which took effect on August 25, and put "non-profit" hospitals like Yale-New Haven under the rule of the National Labor Relations Board. But the Hospital's argument doesn't hold water. The new law didn't take effect until August 25. The law didn't change until AFTER the workers signed the cards, not until AFTER the workers went to Wethersfield, not even until AFTER the State Labor Board issued their order for an election.

The Hospital is doing just what they have been doing all along--trying to delay the day of reckoning. The workers think the Hospital should stop stalling around and face the music. If the majority of Housekeeping workers want union representation, why not let them have it?

UFW Pickets Depot

Supporters of the United Farm Workers' (UFW) boycott of grapes and Gallo Wines decided to bring their message to the small independent grocers by picketing the Long Wharf Food Depot at 6am Monday morning, September 9. On Saturday, September 14, there will be a UFW benefit concert (see community calendar).

Proposed New Charter Is Worse than Old One

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

This article is the second part of a two part series examining the "changes in the new New Haven City Charter. In the last issue we took a look at the present city charter and its inadequacies. We also examined one of the three chater reform questions that will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. This article will explore the last two questions which will also appear on that election ballot

More Power to the Mayor

There will be two other charter reform questions (Questions 5 and 7 on the ballot) that will together cover over 75 separate changes in the city charter. Question 5 proposes to change the charter by eliminating as elected positions the Registrar of Vital Statistics, Selectmen, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Constables and Sheriff (all would be appointed by the mayor). This question also includes the consolidation of Town Clerk and City Clerk.

At a time when we have seen the ill effects of too much concentration of power in a chief executive in government, it seems ill advised to continue this course in New Haven. It seems that we should have more elected positions in city government rather than less!

Question 7 contains over 60 separate changes in the charter (I lost count after one hour). The thrust of most of these proposed changes is the same as Question 5 -- more power to the mayor.

For example, the positions of Park Director and Planning Director which under the present charter are appointed by their respective commissions, would under the proposed change be appointed by the mayor.

The current charter requires that both the Fire and Police Chiefs have lived in New Haven at least five years before becoming eligible for appointment. The changes contained in Question 7 removes prior residency requirements for police and fire chiefs and all other appointed city officials (controller, corporation counsel, etc.)

Question 7 also contains among the multitude a few progressive proposals. One item would change the method for filling vacancies on the Board of Aldermen from appointment by the mayor to election. Another item would set up an Office of Legislative Services for the Board of Aldermen with a minimum budget of $25,000 a year. There is also a new requirement that an Alderman live in the ward he or she represents while in office.

However, as the ballot will be set up -- especially Question 7 -- we will not have the opportunity to vote for just the few forward looking provisions contained in the entire package. It's all or nothing!

What Can We Do

One option is to vote yes on all the charter reform questions. Some might argue that there are a few good proposals and that we can always try to change the charter again next year. However, it is also possible that an overwhelming no vote by the city's voters could be interpretted as a demand for real charter reform.

The Board of Aldermen, by State Law is empowered to appoint a Charter Revision Commission and then approve the proposed changes before they are put on the ballot. There is the chance to press our Aldermen for a new Commission. If the Aldermen won't do it, we can force them by petition. State law provides that petition signatures of 10% of the registered voters in a town (about 6000 in New Haven) forces the Board of Aldermen to set up a Charter Revision Commission.

Lack of Information

How can a voter in New Haven get more information on the charter and the reform questions. Well if you go down to City Hall you will find that a copy of the city Charter costs $11. The Town Clerk has one copy of the Charter Reform items which cover over 40 typed pages and cannot be taken from the office.

The State Law covering charter revision (7 - 191) requires that the exact proposed revisions be published once in a local newspaper within 30 days of acceptance by the Board of Aldermen. So, some day soon you might find the details in the super-fine print of the legal notices in the New Haven Register. Good Luck!

Labor Notes

High Court Rules States May Deny Pregnant Women Disability Benefits

Fairness for pregnant women has been dealt a serious blow by the US Supreme Court, which ruled une 17 that states can deny disability benefits to women employees who miss work because of normal pregnancy. The 6-3 decision upheld the constitutionality of California's disability insurance program which excludes maternity-related benefits.

Dissenting Justices Brennan, Marshall and Douglas noted, however, that the California program does protect men who are incapacitated by prostate trouble or circumcision and also covers gout and hemophilia (which are largely confined to males). Calling the majority decision a "retreat ... to a time when 'traditional' equal protection analysis sustained legislative classifications that treated differently members of a particular sex solely because of their sex," Justice Brennan declared that "the economic effects caused by pregnancy-related disabilities are functionally indistinguishable from the effects caused by any other disability. By singling out for a less favorable treatment a gender-linked disability peculiar to women," he continued, "the state has created a double standard for disability compensation: a limit is imposed upon the disabilities for which women workers may recover while men receive full compensation for all disabilities suffered."

Wage Chiseling

Employers illegally underpaid some 357,000 workers by $96.6 million in back wages and overtime during the fiscal year that ended June 30, the Labor Dept. reported.

Of the $96.6 million held back from the defrauded workers, only $49,926,000 was reimbursed to about two-thirds of them. Last year, $40,125,000 was restored to two of every three workers found to be underpaid.

The major reason for the difference between the total money found due to employes and the amount actually paid is employers' refusals to pay back wages in cases unsuitable for litigation by the Labor Dept. Looks like there's always a loophold.

Supreme Court Upholds Equal Pay Act

The 10-year-old Federal Equal Pay Act was upheld in its first test before the U.S. Supreme Court. In a 5-3 decision, the high court ruled that Corning Glass Works violated the Act by paying male inspectors on the night shift more than women doing the same work in the daytime.

editorial

Politicians Fiddle as Students Burn

What is happening at SCCC?
In 1974, South Central Community College(SCCC), 1) lost its federally funded compensatory learning center, 2) suffered a drastic loss of enrolment(they won't release the actual figures), 3)received 7 faculty resignations, 4) fired 6 faculty members, 5) hired seven new faculty members without proper notification that positions were open, 6) designed a new site without participation of faculty or students,and 7)to top it all off, SCCC lost its regional accredidation. This years SCCC's president, Dr. Waller, has been the subject of a scandal. It seems he has two private businesses in addition to his fill time presidential duties. These are only a few of South Central's casualties.

The current administration is destroying SCCC by indiscrimantly firing faculty members and replacing them with less qualified suporters of Waller and his cronies. The quality of the facility is being further undermined by the reductions in faculty and student input into decision making. Mismangaement of federal funds has resulted in the loss of the skills center. Stories have appeared and numerous complaints have been sent to Dr. Searle Charles, executive director of the Board of Trustees of the Community Colleges. These complaints have been ignored.

South Central, like other Community Colleges, was designed before the current inflation-recession, to train the intellectually skilled labor then needed on the labor market. SCCC was never designed to train the future leaders of America as Yale was. Even in its best years SCCC had one tiny portion of a high school library, while Yale has forty libraries, some occupying New Haven's tallest buildings. Community Colleges have lesser staff requirements than elite four year schools. They require a MASTERS degree, whereas Yale requires a DOCTORATE. However, in spite of its lesser facilities, SCCC did have a large, dedicated faculty, an excellently funded skills center for remedial reading and math, and an enthusiastic student body.

Times have changed. The deterioration of SCCC is permitted because the fewer job opportunities that exist are going to the already privileged. SCCC students, who need the best education in order to compete with the privileged, are getting less,not more.

This is allowed to continue, because no one is advocating the cause of the mass of Americans. As times get harder, even the crumbs given to SCCC will disappear. We need a party which speaks to the needs of the people who make America function. The Republicans and Democrats both respond to the needs of their wealthy backers. The fate of SCCC students is wrapped up with the fate of a community labor party.

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MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

STAFF:
Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Andy Esposito, Sam Goodwin, Barbara Greenwood, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Mike Holodnak, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Steve Mick, Patti Miller, Les Nordlicht, Laurie Nussdorfer, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Ruth Resnick, Tish Villecco, Henry Tamarin, Karen Wolff, Rick Wolff, Richard Linke.

money talks

Oil Barons Renege on New Energy Investment

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

The ways of Big Business in America are marvelous to see. Take this last year of troubled times in the economy. Everyone says worse times are coming. Presidents say,"We must all pull together;we must all tighten our belts." So consider how two of our nation's biggest businesses have responded to the universal call for patriotic efforts to patch up a shaky economy.

First the oil industry. The Table in the box on this page showshow the oil companies have done their fair share by raising their prices so high that their profits rose between 22% and 403% from 1973 to 1974. The oil companies were even so kind as to take out many full-paged ads in newspapers showing us how they were patriotic. They explained the huge profits were needed to collect the money for investing in producing more energy for America.

You can imagine how embarrassed they were this summer when Mobil Oil, the industry's third largest company, announced its plan to use its profits to buy up the Montgomery Ward Department store chain. There won't be any extra energy "for America" from using its profits that way. In fact, it turns out that since"economic conditions are so poor and uncertain,"most oil companies, their owners and executives plan not to boost energy investments after all.

And meanwhile, the consequences of the huge oil price increases keep battering the American economy. The transportation industry staggers at its higher fuel costs and works hard to pass them on in higher rates. These mean higher prices for everything that has to travel before you buy it.

Maintainance Expenses Cut

The second big business whose response to our economic troubles is well worth thinking about is the electric utility industry. A story in The Wall Street Journal (September 5,1974)reveals their plans. It seems that around the country, those companies who are not getting the rate increases they demand from the Public Utility Commissions are taking some drastic steps. To save their profits(or perhaps raise them)in the face of the fuel cost jumps,many electric companies are cutting down in what they call"maintainance expenses."

Routine maintainance includes things like tree trimming, replacing aging wires etc. Tree trimming in particular is being reduced all around America. In Washington, an official of the Federal Power Commission worries,"How long before you have trouble?We just don't know." He explains that tree trimming keeps branches from tangling the power lines, causing short circuits and producing power blackouts. And how long can old wires go before they short circuit causing fires or blackouts or both?

A call to Mr. Ted Cotjanle of the Information Services Dept. of the United Illuminating Co,(UI) produced the fact *that UI, too, has cut some of its tree* trimming activities.

So, to put the matter briefly, the electric companies are responding to our and their economic difficulties by cutting **not** the dividends of its shareholders, but **instead** the safety and security of the electricity we need. It is the electric companies slap back at consumers opposing their rate increases(the"fuel adjustments" and so on). As you can see, the electric companies, like the oil companies, and like big business in general have very special ways of responding to patriotic calls for helping our economy.

Of course, what all this points to is the enormous benefit to all consumers that would come from taking over these companies and running them for the needs of the people instead of the profits of owners and salaries of hired executives. So it is good to see a group like the Fair Haven Short-Circuited Consumers (P.O. Box 99, Fair Haven Station, New Haven Ct. 06513). This group realizes that beyond stopping the United Illuminating Company's "fule cost adjustment", it must work for a city wide takeover.

Oil Corporation Profits After Taxes

Company	*1973 1st Half*	*1974 1st Half*	*Up*
Exxon	$1,020.0 Million	$1,560.0 Million	53%
Texaco	531.6	1,050.0	97%
Mobil	340.0	626.0	84%
Standard, Calif.	335.0	578.0	73%
Gulf	360.0	540.0	50%
Indiana Standard (Amoco)	242.5	469.0	106%
Shell	169.8	246.4	45%
Sun Oil	97.6	218.2	124%
Continental	99.2	209.6	111%
Phillips	89.8	204.7	128%
Occidental	31.9	160.4	403%
Cities Service	67.3	122.6	82%
Ashland	60.4	85.7	42%
Marathon	40.7	80.8	99%
Sohio	59.8	72.9	22%

review Class Struggle in the Electrcal Industry

by Mike Holodnak
Modern Times Staff

Them and Us, Struggles of a Rank and File Union. by James J. Matles and James Higgins. Prentice Hall,311 ppg. $2.25

Every worker in America should read, "Them and Us."

This very important book is a history of the United Electric, Radio and Machine Workers of America, known as the UE. It traces the UE's birth, its victories and its trials and tribulations.

The UE, with the CIO, was born in the 1930's crucible of broiling revolt that fused together industrial workers of every description; semi-skilled,skilled and unskilled, white and black, young and old, men and women. It was a major breakthrough of militant democractic industrial unionism in basic industry. It was the long sought-after dream of the IWW(Industrial Workers of the World), which finally came to fruition.

Corporations Take Offensive

Unfortunately, soon after World War 2, corporations, enriched with wartime profits of $17 billion, mounted a full -of-hysteria "Red Scare" offensive to stop the CIO.

By 1947 the proud CIO industrial union banner which emblazed the slogan "Organize the Unorganized!" trailed in the dust.

James J Matles, the co-author ot Them and Us, was one of the founders of the UE and is currently its General Secretary. He had left a machine shop in the early 1930's to become a full time union organizer and joined with other national CIO leaders in the buliding of industrial unionism.

It is mostly Matle's perspective with its first hand flavor along with the many documentations that make this book so interesting.

Major Parties Exclude Voters

In 1947, a bi-partisan front of Truman Democrats and reactionary Republicans had agreed upon a foreign policy of cold war which permitted the two major parties to exclude the voting public from expressing a preference for any alternate party.

When Henry Wallace formed a third party, CIO president Phillip Murray in the January 1948 convention, issued a declaration againist the formation of a third party of major political ideals, and Murray expected all unions to toabide by it.

He further declared tnat the policy againist a third party in no way implied endorsement of any other party. But, by summer, the CIO endorsed Harry Truman for a second term and all the unions were then instrucetd to toe the line for Truman.

The UE maintained its autonomy, although Fitzgerald, Emspak and Matles, each as an individual, after explaining their veiws on the dangers of war in the Truman-Dulles policies, had endorsed the Henry-Wallace candidacy.

Taft-Hartly Weakens Unions

At the same time the anti-union Taft-Hartly act went into effect. Its number one objective was to put an end to organization of the unorganized. Other objectives included the fragmenting of industrial unions, and weakening of active shop stewards and the steward systems. It also forbade unions to contribute to campaigns for federal office, sanctioned court injunctions againist unions, and institutionalized redbaiting which placed all union officers into second class citizenship by requiring them to swear to "non-communist affidavits."

John L. Lewis opposed Taft-Hartly and its non-communists affidavits, saying,"I represent an organization whose members believe they pay their officers to fight for them, not to deliver them into slavery."

Cold War Takes Toll

Unfortunately, the progress of the cold war pressured most unions into signing the non-communist affidavits and the UE, which refused to fall into the cold war trap, was wide open for raids.

After 12 months of being raided by other unions, the UE was finally compelled to sign the affidavits.

To protect itself from further raids the UE tried to "secure written assurances from Murray. When Murray did not respond, the UE ceased paying per capita dues and disassociated itself from the CIO.

Infuriated by the UE's action, the CIO leadership hastily mounted the rostrum to declare the UE "expelled".

Then Murray established the International Union of Electrical , Radio and Machine Workers(IUE)which, in collusion with corporations heads and the government, made every effort to destroy the UE.

Especially difficult for the UE was the "dirty decade" of McCarthyism in the fifties. The cold warriors played a tune and the CIO danced to it.

What distinguished the UE from the unions that had capitulated to the cold war was its strict adherence to democratic rank-and-file principles.

The ideology of rank-and-file unionism is spelled out in the UE constitution, just as the ideology of American democracy is spelled out in the Declaration of Independence, and the U.S. Constitution and its first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights.

Insightful Experience

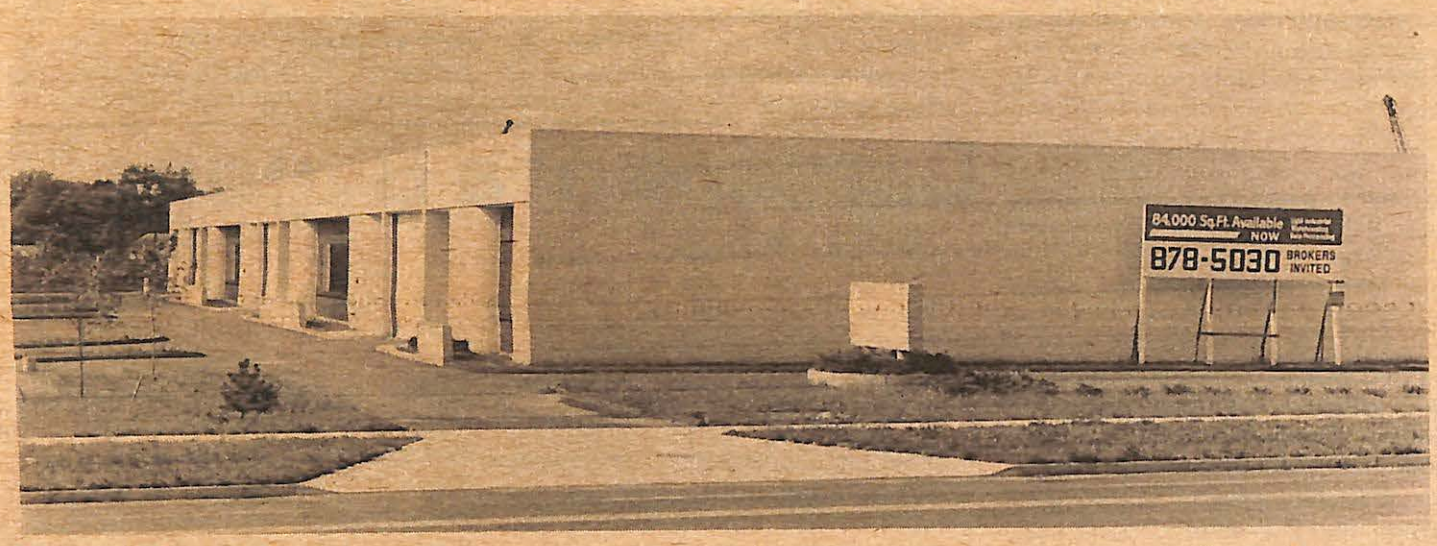
Reading this book is an insightful experience. The corporate forces that had almost destroyed the UE were the the same forces that had recently destroyed the U.S. Constitution.

It was the UE's democratic character that helped it to withstand the witch hunts, betrayals, sellouts and all the rest of the incredibly powerful forces that were arrayed againist it.

But this cold war period had badly divided the house of labor,leaving it vulnerable to attack. And a united Big Business did exactly that, causing the quality of life and the working conditions of all workers to decline drastically, till the CIO finally responded to the UE's urgings for unity.

While this trend toward labor unity did not by any means solve all of labor's problems, it was a step that brought a decisive victory in the 1969 GE Westinghouse strike, and it opened great opportunities for the future of the entire labor movement.

For SCCC,A House is Not a Home



Nick Heyer

Is this commercial site suitable for a community college?

by Modern Times Staff

After 6 years of being a parasite of Wilbur Cross High School,South Central Community College (SCCC), finally has a home. The site, which was originally designed to be a shopping center,is located at 60 Sargent Dr. Long Wharf.

The college site which will be completed in about one year and a half,is planned to accomodate 4,000 students and will cost about $8 million.

With these facts in mind, will the site adequately serve the needs of the region? According to some of the faculty members of SCCC,"Sargent Drive is not a suitable site" for the college. For one thing, it lacks the adequate room needed, even with its plan for an addition of a second fllor. Nor does it have the atmosphere a college facility should have. It is located in an industrial area which can become noisy and distracting. There are also no grounds on the premises where a student can go on a break.

Poor Biology Lab

One complaint from Asst. Professor of Biology, Ben Winn, was that, "the faculty has no input for the design of the school." Mr. Winn, along with another faculty member, submitted carefully designed floor plans of what would be needed for adequately equipped biology labs. Their suggestions were disregarded by the administration.

Some of the few advantages of the site are that it will let SCCC remain an inner-city college and that it is easily accessible from both I-95 and I-91. Parking does not seem to be a major problem and a direct bus route will also be planned.

Lack of Opportunities

Dr. W. DeHomer Waller, Resident of SCCC, favors the site. In his report, "Our choice for a Home," Dr. Waller lists some facilities in the Sargent Dr. area which may provide opportunities for job training and employment for the students. Included in the list were, training opportunitites in the use of computer technology at Gant Shirtmakers, and training in a data processing program in cooperation with the Armstrong Rubber Co. He also spoke of the use of the gymnasium , swimming pool and other recreational facilities at the Albie Booth Memorial Boys Club. Howard Johnson's,Seamco. and the First New Haven National Bank were listed as some of the employment opportunities in the area.

If it all sounds too good to be true, it's because all of Dr. Waller's opportunities are not realities yet. They have not even been approved by the companies.

The faculty's main concern is not about the site, but about the inadequatey of the present administration. The general attitude of the faculty is not that the school has failed because of the lack of a building but due to the lack of decent and honest leadership.

The real issue at hand is that South Central Community College now has a building, but will the school be any different as long as the present administration exists.

Community Calendar

SEPT. 14 SAT.	**UFW BENEFIT.**For International Boycott Week. Liberation ensemble, Black Elms, Billy Horowitz, Albert Martinez. At the St. John's Church, 142 Sylvan Ave, 8 p.m. Tickets $2. For info contact Farm Workers Office 787-6511
SEPT. 18 Wed.	**WOMEN AND DRUG TREATMENT.**Part of a series"Women at Work presented every Wednesday at 8pm at the Women's Center 215 Park St.,basement.
SEPT. 20 FRI.	**FOLK DANCING.** Organizational meeting 6:30,dancing at the Payne Whitney Gym at 8 p.m.
SEPT. 25 Wed.	**SELF HELP.**Another in the Women at Work series,8pm,Women's Center.
Until SEPT. 26	**ART EXHIBIT:** Sponsored by the New Haven Public Library:Main Bracch- Margaret Ottenbreit-Pressed Flower Pictures; Chapel Branch-Vivian Green-Nursery Posters; Mitchell Branch-Joe Rosen-Mixed Media.
EVERY SUN. MON.&TUES.	**RAP SESSIONS:** At hte Women's Center. Sundays-Divorce at 2:30 pm., Mondays-Lesbianism at 8 pm., Tuesday -Feminists at 8 pm.

write on

To the Editors:

I am in my fifties, and have attended the High School classes at the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation, 339 Grand Avenue.

Everyone is made welcome, and the teachers are really dedicated. They find your weak spots and help you in them.

I will soon take my test and hope I will succeed. I will be able to get a better paying job.

I will miss the friends that I have made at the Neighborhood Corporation.

I would like to thank them all for their kind consideration.

Mrs. Jessie H. Avery

Literary Lights to Spark AIM Forum

by Peter J. O'Connell
Modern Times Staff

Controversial critic Maxwell Geismar and activist writer Grace Paley will speak in New Haven next month in the first of a series of AIM-Modern Times Forums on various topics of interest to the progressive community. Geismar and Paley will speak on "Radical Voices in American Literature" at 8PM, Friday, October 11, in the Undercroft of United Church-on-the-Green. Also on the program with them will be a folksinger and a "theatre piece" of selections from American writers. Refreshments will be available.

Future programs in the series of AIM-Modern Times Forums are planned to feature Frank Donner of the American Civil Liberties Union speaking on the history of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Harry Magdoff of Monthly Review speaking on China, and Benjamin Spock speaking on childraising under capitalism. In addition to being the first in a series of AIM-Modern Times Forums, the Geismar and Paley appearance will mark the start of the First Annual New Haven Festival of Politics and the Arts, which will present speakers, workshops, films, performers, and exhibits throughout October 12 and 13 at Center Church Parish House, 311 Temple Street.

Geismar has become a controversial figure in literary and academic circles for his insistence on examining the social and political content and context of literature. He has taught at Harvard and Sarah Lawrence and is the author of Writers in Crisis, The Last of the Provincials, Rebels and Ancestors, American Moderns, Henry James and the Jacobites, and Mark Twain. He has edited collections of Ring Lardner, Walt Whitman , Thomas Wolfe, Sherwood Anderson, Jack London, and Mark Twain.

Paley is a noted activist in the peace and women's liberation movements and is author of The Little Disturbances of Man and Enormous Changes at the Last Minute.

NARCO Going Strong in Eighth Year

by Eric Thomas
Modern Times Staff

Back in 1966, two ex-addicts decided to start an organization to help other addicts. At that time, there were no agencies designed to provide services to the drug abuser. The two men were Rev. Clayton Martindale and Rev. Ben La Frazier;the organization they founded-NARCO(Narcotics Addiction Research and Community Opportunities), Inc.

This community based program was founded to deal with the individual addict as well as the social attitudes which underly and inform drug abuse. Through the years, NARCO has kept the policy of helping others highest on their list of program priorities. Based at 216-226 Congress Ave., NARCO has continuously added to the basic education and Rehabilitation services it offers the community.

Three years ago, NARCO opened Liberation House, a twenty-four hour residential theraputic community. The program, directed by Ted Murray, now houses 25 residents and is staffed by 7 experienced counselors. The overall program goal is to affect lasting, positive behavioral change and return people to the mainstream of society. Each month, residents of Liberation House hold an "Open House" and invite friends, family and all those interested to observe and participate in the program. Liberation House is located at 599 Howard Ave., New Haven.

Nick Hever

NARCO's storefront on Congress Avenue.

Other NARCO Programs

In addition to its residential treatment program, NARCO offers a variety of other programs and services to people seeking help. These programs and services include: Legal and rebailitation referral, through out-reach counselors who visit jails, courts and hospitals; community education and training programs; a speakers bureau, film library and literature; and a monthly newspaper"NARCO Notes".NARCO also provides monthly trips to penal institutions (Somers, Cheshire, and Niantic) throughout the State. These services are provided at the NARCO center in New Haven(777-7387) and Ansonia (735-8623)Connecticut.

The demands that our materialistic, achievement oriented society place on an individual are often more than he or she can realistically cope with. Many individuals attempt to block out real or imagined failure with the use of chemical agents such as narcotics or alcohol. Unfortunately, this is a sad but true commentary on the times we live in. Another sad but true fact is the lack of community-based organizations that are equipped to help the person in need.

NARCO is one of the few places where people can get competant, concerned assistance.

Lessons of a Bygone Movement

by Modern Times Staff

This is the fourth and last article describing Alfred E. Tong, New Haven's Socialist Mayoral candidate during the 1940's.

What factors helped Al Tong capture 20% of the vote in the 1947 mayoral election? Whay didn't he ever receive as many votes in subsequent elections? And what should future socialists candidates learn from Tong's campaigns?

First, the importance of persistence. Tong had been a candidate before 1947, and remained one in later years. He was known to those who followed city politics closely. His name, if not a household word, was at least recognizable to some voters. In addition, Tong's campaign experiences helped him develope, for example, skills in public speaking, essential to any candidate. Thus Tong was in position to take advantage of electoral opportunities. Such an opportunity came in the 1947 mayoral race.

Ethnic Groups Important

Second, the importance of ethnicity. Attachment to the ethnic groups is an important force in American politics. In 1947 some voters, particularly"Irish " Democrats, were unwilling to vote for either of the two "Italian " candidates. But instead of staying away from the polls, many cast their votes for a socialists.The result was due to Tong's availability as a symbol for protest voting.

The political importance of ethnic identification continues. In 1965, there was a negative reaction to the Republican nomination of a "Jewish" candidate, reducing his support among groups that otherwise would have favored a Republican.

The sources of such activities are complex, and although ethnic divisions serve to divide working class groups, they cannot be explained solely as a result of conscious manipulation by ruling elites. In fact, as Tong's case suggests, such attitudes are somewhat malleable and can turn in different directions. Ethnic identifications contain both positive elements and negative element. As such, socialist candidates must work with the positive aspects.

Bold Organization Essential

Third, the need for organization. Tong's greatest weakness was his inability to develop a political organization. On principaled grounds he opposed such an organization. Without one he was forced to rely on Divinity School volunteers for canvassing. He was thus unable to translate proven voting popularity into any other political resources that could sustain him or other socialists between elections, or serve as a base during an election. Tong conducted a one-man campaign,difficult enough with a Democrat of Republican affiliation,doubly difficult under a Socialist banner.

The existence of a permanent, ward based, political party would not have prevented Tong's defeat. In the 1970's, however , political organization may make a difference in particular situatons.

The prospects for municipal Socialism are not as dismal as some would have us believe. Al Tong's candidacies provide lessons from the past and hope for the future.

Cultural Festival Will Unravel Roles Politics&Arts

by the Arts and Politics Group

Politics and the arts will be united in a festival of exhibits, films, lectures, performances, and workshops to be held in New Haven, October 11-13 at the Center Church Parish House.

Kirsten Dahl, speaking for the New Haven Arts and Politics Group, stated: "We are sponsoring this festival because the lives of all of us are govered by politics and expressed through art. The two are vitally connected, though some political people and some artists try to ignore that fact."

"We hope the festival will show some of the connections. We also hope it will help to renew both the arts and politics from the state of corruption they are in today. The artists and speakers at the festival, most from New Haven, some from other places, represent progressive directions in which both art and politics could move."

Radicalism Talks Launch Festival

The festival will begin the evening of Friday, October 11 with talks on radicalism in American literature and cold war culture by critic Maxwell Geismar and short story writer and peace activist Grace Paley. In addition to these talks there will be dramatic readings from the works of some of the great American radical writers.

During the afternoon and evening of Saturday, October 12, there will be an illustrated talk and workshop on "The Marxist Approach to the Arts" led by Peter O'Connell; a showing of Cuban and Russian films; an illustrated talk and workshop on "Art in a Revolutionary Period: Soviet Arts of the 1920's led by Liz Henderson; and a political dance by Joan Stone.

Films by New Haveners

On Sunday, October 13, there will be showings of films by New Haven film makers; readings by Eveline Doob and other poets; guerrilla theatre by the New Haven Street and Children's Theater; music by Billy Horowitz; an illustrated talk by architect Harris Stone on "Architecture and Capitalism;" a workshop on "Art in a Non-revolutionary Period: the United States and the Socialist Countries Today;" group singing; a communal dinner; and a dance with music by the New New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band and Bev Grant and the Human Condition from New York.

Throughout the weekend there will be exhibits of paintings, photography by Virginia Blaisdell of New Haven, and Ralph Fasanella of New York.

Karl Lechow

During the 1972 political campaigns this picture was taken by a MT reporter at a local Democratic Committee meeting.

school notes
Those Hidden Costs of Enrichment

by Ruth Hein
Modern Times Staff

The overall yearly figure of how much New Haven spends for the education of its children is impressive. We are told, however(and we have no reason to doubt), that the sum is barely sufficient to keep schools minimally functioning. Each year auxiliary services decrease. Though class sizes have been creeping upwards, there is no money in the city budget for classroom aides. Though teachers are encouraged to use new techniques, the city has pitifully few funds for additional materials. And so on.

New haven, like other cities, relies more and more on federal grants for auxiliary and enrichment services. The federal government, in turn, offers grant money under various titles of the Education Acts of 1965 and later. The government tries, by economic means, to redress the balance of opportunity. Thus the Focus Program (under Title I) operates in so-called inner-city schools to improve the education of the "economically deprived" who have traditionally been neglected. The Follow Through program, another example of federal influence, encourages more flexible classroom structures in an effort to minimize unequal attention to children. All federal programs mandate community involvement to some degree.

On the face of it, this interplay makes for fruitful collaboration. Local governments can gain the funds necessary for better schools without overtaxing their constituents. The federal social planners can take steps towards a more productive citizentry without usurping local functions.

Program Becomes Problem

There are no programs without problems, however. And this particular situation the problems shape the outcome. There are two elements involved that are in themselves potentially destructive: money and bureaucracy. Each of these tend toward self-perpetuation to the exclusion of other considerations.

A school system becomes aware of its lacks and needs through outside pressures: parent complaints about the absence of physical education, for example. The bureaucracy that runs schools must therefore remedy its shortcomings, and it must look to federal funds to do so. It then becomes a matter of matching the immediate need to the requirements of a particular funding program.

In New Haven this year, for example, money had to be found to restore or retain enrichment activities that could content middle class parents. The government, under Title VII, offered grants to promote racial integration. A new Haven Grant application provided for a 60-40 ratio of integration in the new East Rock 5-8 school(by busing from Hill-Central and some Newhallville schools) in return for funds to underwrite a program of classes and afterschool activities that go far beyond the core curriculum.

The grant proposal as written and approved reads like Mom and apple pie. Only Scrooge could question the aims and premises. In fact, it is working out somewhat differently.

Bureaucracy Gains Control

The mandatory community involvement is officially observed and actually circumvented. True, the draft proposal was up for discussion at a public meeting as well as among some community groups. In this way the final version was able to incorporate refinements offered by the school's constituents. But the people were basically given a Hobson's choice: this proposal or nothing. There was no time or forum in which to debate whether or not Kodaly music program(a large element of the plan)is one the parents of the students want, whether integration could or should be achieved without busing or through busing from a different area, whether the proposal should be in this school or a different one or in more than one. In effect, the bureaucracy retained absolute control.

And while the grant makes certain that the school has a council, there are so many details and they have to be implemented so speedily that the parents and community members have neither the time nor the energy to supervise all aspects. To question after the fact-as they are forced to do is to be in a position of powerlessness.

Money Is Real Power

And now that the money has been granted, the paramount consideration becomes its preservation and renewal. As the new school year opens, the principal is getting ready to write the proposal for the second year of the program, with bigger(but not necessarily better) provisions. The need for federal funds therefore makes it imperative that the program already funded work outsuccessfully-at least in the eyes of the Washington bureauracracy. Administering the funded program comes to take precedence over the real needs of the children, the expressed or tacit desires of the community, and even the basic processes of schooling. Thus a set of programs conceived in good faith to support and aid children and teachers has taken over the reins, and the students and staff are sacrificed to money and to the bureaucracy that exists to handle it.

OSHA Just Slaps Wrists

New Haven Occupational Health and Safety Project

There is no doubt that administrative law (federal regulations which are enforced by non-judicial agencies) has worked to the advantage of corporate interests. The history of federal agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Interstate Commerce Commission as outlined in the first article (Modern Times, Vol. V, No. 6) bears this out. The practices of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration in the last four years are an indicator that the theory behind administrative regulation has not changed. It is still established practice for agencies to fine companies or confiscate their products or close down a machine, but not to subject company executives to criminal prosecution and cart them off to jail. Administrative justice has been directed at maintaining the economy and proscribing particular business practices during a given economic period. It has not been based on moral laws which demand punishment of violators of administrative rules.

The inequity in this system is obvious. While many corporate violations are primarily economic in their effect, a substantial number go beyond hurting our wallets and our pocketbooks. They directly maim and kill workers and consumers. Fining companies for actions, which, if committed on the street, would draw ten to twenty years in the state prison, is a gross insult to the victims. But again, the administrative system is not equipped to punish, only to restore conditions to the status quo.

Where does that leave us? On the one hand, it makes us aware of the limitations of agency justice. As long as corporate executives do not face stiff jail terms for forcing workers to breathe toxic fumes and as long as company presidents are not confronted by the stigma of being booked and fingerprinted for refusing to reduce noise in their plants to an acceptable level, conditions will not immediately and basically change. The administrative process is slow and expensive. The companies have the legal expertise and the funds to stave off many agency efforts to regulate them. All too frequently, the efforts are half-hearted anyway. Most administrative officials are recruited from the ranks of management. Their preference is for friendly persuasion. It is not surprising that when companies are in fact fined, the fines are too low to force the issue.

Workers Pressure Companies

On the other hand, after all these years of watching how administrative agencies work, and learning what little can be expected of them, workers had best know how to deal with the beast. The only solution is to develop local skills which will leave agencies no choice but to pressure companies to provide clean healthy working conditions. Adequate ventilation systems or baffles to lessen noise would be examples. This means workers having their own set of facts to show to the fact-finding commission, their own health reports to present to agency doctors and health inspectors to prove the seriousness of their allegations.

Familiarity with the agency way of doing things, with the variances that the companies will ask for at every turn, and with the endless appeals that the companies will take from every agency finding, can improve conditions. But improvement requires a long-termed commitment to seeing the process through. It is not possible to eliminate a hazard by filing one complaint form with OSHA and then waiting weeks before they warn the company that this is the last straw, and then more months before they finally fine the company, and more months before all of the appeals are heard and the variances requested.

Present OSHA System Can Be Fought

The present OSHA system can be fought by filing complaint after complaint, if the company refuses to deal with the first one, by demanding the right to meet privately with OSHA inspectors, by testifying at administrative hearings and offering workers' own facts compiled over a long period of time. The present agency system will not send the company executives to jail. But at least uncooperative companies can be pushed to the uncomfortable and unprofitable point by constant labor pressure on the agency system. Only when companies find that they are better off improving conditions and listening seriously to local health and safety committees then paying their lawyers time and a half to camp out on OSHA's lawn, will they do so.

The New Haven Occupational Health and Safety Project is beginning its third year of work in this area. The Project is involved in assisting local workers in improving health and safety conditions. This means dealing effectively with the agency system and developing the skills to confront management directly on occupational health and safety issues. For further information, call the Central Labor Council, 397-1310.

Natalino's Dirty Secret Bared

continued from page 1

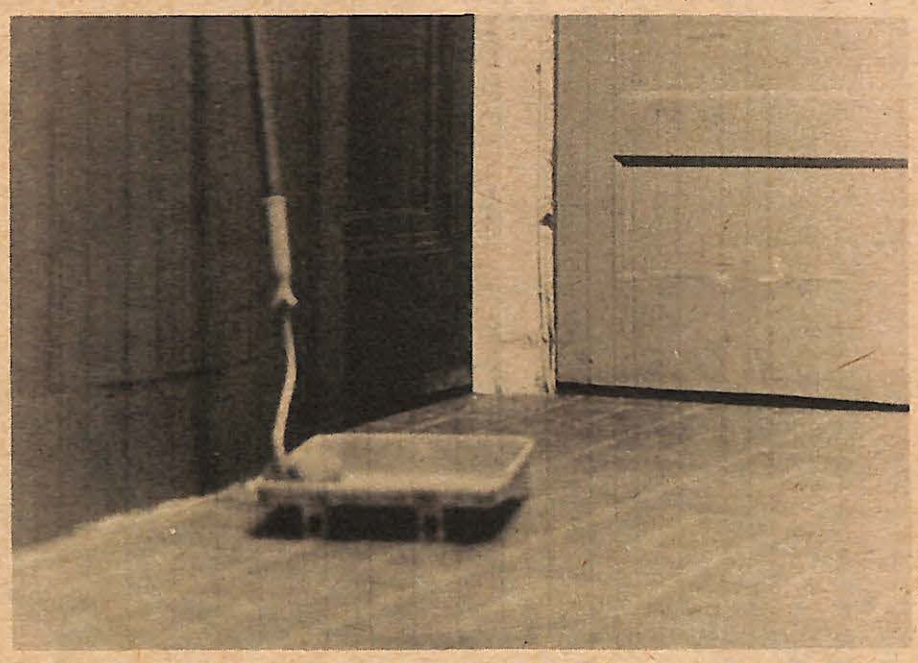
When I went to Putnam Street to talk with Dorothy, the first thing that hit me as I walked in was a distinct small of gas. Asking Dorothy if this were a common ill, she replied in the affirmative. She had called the Gas company and they could not find anything wrong. The problem however has to do again with the furnace backing up and the leaking of heating ducts.

Less Than Responsible

The house at Putnam Street is a wreck. This writer has trouble determining if any form of human life can exist at this address. Mr. Natalino has not done a responsible job in the care of his property.

When Dorothy told Natalino of the sickness of her son, he said he was sorry. That's all, besides paint the rooms yourself.

Mr. Natalino is currently seeking the 97th District General Assembly seat. . . . Good luck, 97ers.



Nick Heyer

142 Putnam Street, where Alderman Natalino is painting over his problems. Simply painting over the old lead paint means that when this new paint chips, leaded paint will again be exposed to claim more victims.

on the job

Social Worker Enjoys Contact With Aged

by Dolores Zemke and Renee Poirier

I am a neighborhood worker for the elderly. My job is federally funded through OEO, and I work out of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation.

Most of the time is spent visiting the elderly in this neighborhood, particularly those living at Ruoppolo Manor. I take them shopping or to the bank, or I run these errands for them. Many of the elderly are disabled and without transportation, so I am their arms and legs.

I also provide them with information about food stamps, social security and occasionally welfare. Many times they have problems. They don't get their social security checks, or their food stamps, and they don't know where to begin to get help. I make the necessary contacts for them and let them know that they have someone to turn to when things go wrong.

Besides these things, I act as a referral service, getting the elderly in touch with various agencies, like the Visiting Nurses and the Fair Haven Health Clinic. I make the connections for people who are unaware of these services, and who can't afford private care. I take care of the financial part of a medical-financial problem.

Nick Heyer

Dolores Zemke

Hard to Find

The main thing I like to do is go into individual homes in the Fair Haven area, where the people are isolated and don't have access to information. I have to find them myself. It's a hard thing to do, but when I find them I can really help them out. They are not aware of social security supplements and such. I am the only person they see. They are very lonely.

Another thing that I am very interested in and am working on is getting the elderly out of Quinnipiac Terrace where most of the residents are younger, and into a place like Ruoppolo Manor where there are facilities and services designed for the elderly. Sometimes this is a problem. Convalescent homes generally won't take married couples so to stay together they must stay where they are. Other older people just don't want to move, so nothing can be done, even though they live in depressing conditions. That's what's so distressing about this job--the way many elderly live.

Not Old-Fashioned

I enjoy working with the elderly, they are very interesting. When I first came I was afraid they would not like me, because they're old-fashioned, but they're not, if you give them a chance to express their views.

I try to talk to them so they will trust people, because some don't anymore. Many of them are senile and can't adjust to the transition of the world. They don't understand, don't trust. I help open the way for them.

Others are lonely and have problems that stem from their loneliness, isolation. People tend to leave the old alone because they are old. I try to make them feel that they are not the only ones with a particular problem. They have problems, like mental problems, that are not just because of age, but people treat these problems as such.

When I do something for these people, like move them into better quarters, they are very grateful. It makes me feel good that I've done something for their living conditions. But it's a problem being the only person available to meet the needs of all the elderly in this neighborhood. Anyone wishing to volunteer in this work, or willing to provide transportations should call me at the Neighborhood Corp. 562-3125.

CHARTER *continued from page 1*

ging. For example, the Union wants its members to receive full "on call" pay (the money received for being available during off duty hours) and not have it deducted from their wages if they actually come to work on an emergency basis, as is presently the case. OPEIU's position is that Local 466 members earned the money by virtue of being "on call" and should get to keep it. On this point, just this issue, Falk is slow to act.

Union Reasonable

In response to this "stonewalling attitude" on the part of management the Union has been reasonable. Members of the the Local 466 negotiating committee have been willing tp meet with Falk and his people at any time they choose. The Union has compromised as much as possible;still they have been unable to effect a settlement.

Meetings are continuing in the hopes of finding a solution to the impasse. In the meantime, the OPEIUers are walking the line;using their weapon of last resort, the strike, to obtain equitable wages and the right to work in dignity.

classified

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